

REAL GOAT OF A LODGE SHOWN IN COURT

It Was Built to Buck Daylights
Out of a Man.

CLAIM OF INJURIES

Set Up By a Man Who Was
Made to Ride It.

Yorkville, S. C., May 24.—For years the connection of the goat with the initiation ceremonies of the secret society has been a tantalizing mystery to those outside the mystic circle.

Is there really such a goat? If so, what does he look like? Is he an animal of flesh and blood or an automatic contrivance? Do the candidates really ride him; and, if so, what are their experiences?

These are the leading questions which have been asked by thousands of men and women, and have always remained unanswered—until now.

Where actually is such a goat, and he has been hitherto only seen as an exhibit in a suit made to perform for Judge and Jury.

The suit was recently brought by Samuel W. Mitchell, against a secret organization, the Woodmen of the World. Mr. Mitchell claims \$1000 damages from the order while riding the goat during the process of his initiation into Hickory Grove Camp.

Mr. Mitchell tells the animal "the Wild Waagman" of the Woodmen of the World, "being rather facetious, despite the gravity of his injuries, and his name is commonly applied to the goat hereabouts, although when people are in a hurry they cut it off with a 'Waag'.

While not a true Hibernian, the animal is of the same genus, and is something between the Hibernian and the goat of commerce.

About one of the characteristics there can be no question—its capacity to buck. In this respect it would make a bad branch with any other animal. Mr. Mitchell, who is a lawyer, and James T. Hark, of Yorkville, say they had no doubt upon the injuries inflicted upon the plaintiff in the action against the Woodmen. On the other hand, H. C. Braun, of Yorkville, says that Mr. Mitchell was hurt at that—that is, he was not hurt at all.

Mr. Mitchell says that when presented himself for initiation into Hickory Camp, on March 22, 1901, he was a strong and healthy man, but after his encounter with the Waag he was a physical wreck. His experience necessitated a surgical operation and all the money in the world would not compensate him for what he has undergone.

Of course the suit deeply interested all the members of the Woodmen directly and all secret organizations collectively, because the question involved turns upon the goat as a part of the initiation ceremony. J. C. Root, at Omaha, Secretary-Commander of the Woodmen, came to Yorkville in the interests of the secret rights of the Waag in particular and goat riding in general, and also to give some testimony about the Woodmen as an order.

Naturally, Mr. Mitchell went on the stand in his own behalf. He said that he had been induced to make application to join the order by W. T. Slaughter. Afterward he seemed to think there was a peculiar significance in the fact that Mr. Slaughter had led him to the goat.

In due course Mr. Mitchell presented himself in the audience of the lodge, where he was initiated by Sam Leach. He was led into the hall with a man holding either arm. He was pushed about in the most unceremonious form for a while, to the shouts of the members. Presently Dr. Ward said to him:

"The applicant declares that he was told that he must show his ability to ride a horse. They really didn't have a horse, but they had a Waag, which would do just as well."

Mr. Mitchell couldn't see the goat because he was sitting behind him. But he knew where he was. That was all right, and he backed and contorted in a way that he thought of flesh and blood could hope to equal. Mr. Mitchell was bound up and down, forward and backward, while the Woodmen howled in glee. There was no joy in Mr. Mitchell's howl. He had been perturbed, and he was madder the goat was stiffer.

"They told me to sit up," said Mr. Mitchell on the stand.

"The devil," said Dr. Ward, "it will be seen that Mr. Mitchell had immediately assumed a name of his own for the Waagman. I don't sit up," the animal kept making out at him. "I said, 'They told me to sit up,' I talked to them. I didn't come here to sit up a lot of times," said Mr. Mitchell. "I came here to join the Woodmen of the World. If this is what it costs to join the Woodmen of the World I have enough of it. I wouldn't enter this way for all the Woodmen in the world."

Mr. Mitchell said he didn't know whether he fell or was pushed, or what. He doesn't know that he went off that goat in a very great hurry, and that he went straight home, applied medicine, took to his bed and remained there for three weeks. He grew considerably worse and had to undergo a surgical operation.

When Mr. Mitchell finished his testimony he seemed somewhat of a wreck. The Woodmen were perfectly agreeable and the suit was continued for another day.

The wooden body has a thick covering of black wool and it possesses real bone.

BEAUTIFUL ISLANDS OF WEST INDIES

Now Under the Scourge of
Volcanic Fire.

PEOPLE WHO LIVE THERE

Martinique and Its Decadence
in Recent Years.

BY FREDERICK A. OBER.

Southeast of the Saints and the Virgins, Tortola, Anegada, and Virgin Gorda, which themselves are to the eastward of Porto Rico, lies a chain of volcanic islands known as the Lesser Antilles. They are included within north latitude 10 and 1 and are arbitrarily divided into the "Leeward" and the "Windward" islands, the former lying south and the latter to the north of the equator. The new moon in her earliest stages describes no more nearly perfect crescent than this "string of emeralds on a silver zone," which these islands form.

The crescent chain of the Caribbean. Each island of this chain, beginning with Cuba in the north and ending with Granada in the south, is volcanic in character, and the chord of the arc they describe is about three hundred and sixty miles in length.

Lying along the northern curve, oceanward, is a fragmentary chain of islets and islets which are coralline in structure—at least above the sea, though they may be erected upon volcanic bases far beneath. This is the view of the casual traveler merely, and is not put forth as a scientific statement. The geologists and geographers are now turning their attention thitherward; let us await their dicta. They have persistently ignored these gems of the Caribbean Sea, and have the beginning of a newer one—now, but now that a convulsion of nature has shaken up the islands, they are bestirring themselves. Some people appear to be moved by nothing less than a cataclysm.

Each island practically a single mountain thrown up from the ocean. The altitudes vary from 2,000 to 5,000 feet, and so evidently of volcanic origin that one may not err in describing them as old volcanoes, or, whomever has been said to his nefarious work in the lower world. Mountain tops, spires, pinnacles, thrust up through the sea, suggest also the remains of a lost continent, or, perhaps the beginning of a newer one—and around them we may weave myths not only Antillean, but Atlantean.

"Who knows the spot where Atlantis sank?"

Myths of a lovely drowned continent. Homeless drift over waters blank. What if these reefs were her mounds? Methinks she lies there, and the sea is her mantle.

Her mountain summits escaped from the sea. "Spirits alone in these islands dwell. All the dumb, dim years ere Columbus sailed."

The old voyagers said; and it might be said of the islands of the West Indies—Providence Island.

Well, perhaps so; the poet in this instance is a poet, Alfred Lytton. Sometimes his is a near truth as the man of science. At all events the silence has been disturbed, and most effectively. Atlantis may yet appear, out of the debris of wrecked cities, a resurrected continent, shake its head above the sea, and verify the Platonic legend.

But should these islands be destroyed, in effect, disappear, one cannot conceive of their places being taken by any more beautiful. Doubtless God might have made better, and more beautiful, islands to replace the good old Waagman. But God never did, or he did not wish to. The islands are very much as they are. As every mountain, it is a fact, is a part of the range of two climatic zones, temperate and tropical, every beautiful aspect of vegetation may be noted here. The sides of each partially submerged volcano, from base to peak, and even some of the crater-walls, are here with richest tapestry in varying shades of green.

The northernmost of the volcanic islands is to be exact, the northwesternmost is St. John, a mountain rising above the ocean floor nobody knows how many thousands feet, but with about 1,800 feet sticking up above the water. What nature intended it should become when finished is not evident, for it seems only just begun; but it is a Dutch possession now, has been for many years and is the smallest property in the West Indies, perhaps in the world, having an area of about seven square miles and supporting not more than 100 inhabitants. What is here in the island is white, and not only white, but Dutch, the good old-fashioned white, with blue eyes, reddish sandy complexion, and flaxen hair. There are Dutch residents in St. Martin, St. Eustacia, and in Aruba, Bonaire, and Curacao, off the Venezuelan coast, but they are not the sturdy, clear-complexioned, Dutch of St. John. The secret of their healthfulness is found in the altitude, at which they live, not one of them less than 800 or 900 feet above the sea. In fact, when nature made St. John, she forgot to indent the coast-line with a harbor, hardly a landing place, least of all a spot big enough to build a house on, so the island lies at an elevation above the sea, perfect of near a thousand feet. Nine hundred and thirty feet, to be exact, is the height of the town of Bottom above the sea. That is where the Saba people, most of them live (those that do not dwell there being still higher up among the crags of the volcano). The town at Bottom is so called because it lies at the bottom of an extensive crater. At least it is supposed to be extinct, and will probably be considered so, until some day the victims of a volcano may find it a very surprising fact that the real center of the crisis was considerably below the level of their settlement. Their dwelling here is a fact, and all those that take up their residence in precarious places merely because they have advantages over others less exposed to danger. They know well enough that the volcano towering above their quiet little town once went on a rampage and peppered the whole island and surrounding sea until the soil of the former was nearly hidden from sight, and the latter made to boil like a witch's caldron. The Saba people ought to know what volcanic rock and scoriae are, of a surety, for they have had painfully clear their lands of both before planting the most fertile gardens that surround their houses.

Indubitable evidence of volcanic action, they will tell you, is to be found in the vast depths of crustal sulphur, which is mined out of the cliffs hundreds of feet above the sea and sent down to vessels by means of a wire tramway. The highest point supplied by human habitation is about 1,400 feet above the sea level. As there is no harbor in St. John, there is no roadway for freight or beast of burden, all the produce shipped thence carried on the backs of men and women. The men are always nearly at sea, being the best sailors in the Caribbean, and in their absence the women, girls and boys work the "provision grounds" and attend to the gardens.

Next neighbor to Saba is the Dutch island of St. Eustacia better known in that region as Statia. It has been better days, but could not be more beautiful, at least so far as its mountain cone is concerned, which is about 1,500 feet in height and perfectly symmetrical. The writer once passed a night on the crater rim of Statia's volcano, in order to study the nocturnal phenomena, and the next morning descended to the floor of the crater, which is covered with gigantic forest trees, and is once "very" healthy, but is now poor and barren, though it is celebrated as the first place in which a foreign power saluted the American flag. It has no harbor, only a lagoon.

Where every island is a perfect gem, a gigantic emerald, embraced by bluest of waves and crowned by silvery clouds, it is most difficult to select the which might be termed the finest; but there is none more attractive from the sea than St. Kitts, named by the modest Columbus, after himself, Saint Christopher. He discovered it, as indeed all these islands of the northern Caribbean, in the year 1493. The highest peak in the island, about 1,600 feet high, is Mount Nevis, which conceals a fine crater in its bosom—a crater that has sent out nothing worse than steam and sulphur fumes within the memory of man. Brimstone Hill, a detached peak 700 feet in height, was once fortified by the British, and going begging at a shilling a day, a name now borne by Saint Kitts, the south of Martinique. 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